



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q64489

Mitsuhira IDAKA

Appln. No.: 09/855,020

Group Art Unit: 3714

Confirmation No.: 8003

Examiner: Aaron J. Capron

Filed: May 15, 2001

For: GAME MACHINE AND NETWORK SYSTEM FOR SETTING UP GAME ENVIRONMENT THEREOF

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JUN 18 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). It is believed that no fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Chinese Office Action dated March 12, 2004 in a counterpart application citing the listed documents.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/855,020

Docket No. Q64489

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, included below are the Examiner's assertions with respect to the listed documents. The Chinese Examiner asserts that:

In connection with the original claims 1, 6 and 12, D1 discloses a game system. A memory card is owned by a player, so that game information such as a progress status of the game and an acquired amount of tokens in the game is stored in the memory card. When the memory card is inserted into an adaptor, the game system identifies the information regarding the player stored in the memory card in order to determine whether the player can participate in the game (*See*, Figs. 2-6; and page 4, line 7 through page 6, line 8);

In connection with the original claims 2 and 10 (now incorporated in claims 1 and 7), D2 discloses a player identifier which identifies a player using an image recognition technique (*See*, Abstract);

In connection with the original claim 3, D1 teaches the claimed game monitor and the claimed personal information generator (*See*, Fig. 9; and page 6, lines 23-26);

In connection with original claim 4, D1 teaches the claimed information communicator (*See*, page 6, lines 27-30);

In connection with original claims 5 and 11, D1 teaches the claimed level determiner (*See*, page 5, line 8 through page 6, line 19);

In connection with original claim 7, D1 discloses the following configuration. A host network 90 for controlling a network 92 is provided with a database 91 in which specific data of all the game characters are stored. When game units are connected to the network, the skill of the game characters are displayed at the respective game units. Each player operating one of the game units determines whether one game character participates the game based on the displayed specific data (*See*, Figs. 4-9, page 5, line 8 through page 6, line 30); and

In connection with the original claim 8, d1 teaches the claimed game monitor, the claimed personal information generator and the claimed information communicator (*See*, page 6, lines 23-30).

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

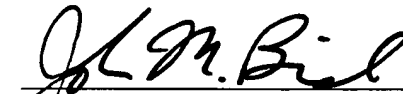
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The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 14, 2004

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/855,020
Confirmation Number	8003
Filing Date	May 15, 2001
First Named Inventor	Mitsuhira IDAKA
Art Unit	3714
Examiner Name	Aaron J. Capron
Attorney Docket Number	Q64489

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ^{1/}	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
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[illegible][illegible]**Date Considered**

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.